

REMARKS

At the time of the last Office Action in the present application, claims 49-84, 86-91 and 93-143 were pending in the application. Of those claims, claims 49, 98 and 103 were independent claims.

In the last Office Action, all of the claims 49-84, 86-91 and 93-143 were finally rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over FLETCHER-HAYNES et al. (2001/0034614) further in view of Official Notice.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Michael Tomaszewski and his Supervisory Primary Examiner Luke Gilligan for the courteous and productive interview with applicants' undersigned counsel at the United States Patent and Trademark Office on December 12, 2006.

As discussed during the interview, the present invention is directed to a system, computer readable medium and method for managing a procedure in a blood component collection facility which includes a computer having software which has a blood collection initialization code segment and an arm-prep code segment. See for example paragraph 0096 of the specification.

FLETCHER-HAYNES discloses a computerized blood collection system which is designed to optimize and maximize the yield of desired blood components, such as

platelets, plasma and red blood cells. See the abstract and paragraphs 0162 and 0195. The FLETCHER-HAYNES system includes a Wizard display which leads the operator through procedures to be used for such optimization. See paragraphs 0121-0143 and Fig. 3 of FLETCHER-HAYNES. However, there is no mention whatsoever of an arm-prep code segment or of any input or desire or need to input or log in the arm-prep procedure as set forth in all of the claims of the present application.

This absence of disclosure or suggestion in FLETCHER-HAYNES has been dismissed in the last Office Action by simply taking Official Notice that arm-prep is old and well-known in blood collection. As discussed during the interview, it may well be true that the act of arm-prep in a blood collection procedure is well known. However, the provision of an arm-prep code segment in the computer software is not well known nor is the provision for logging such procedure in well known. The arm-prep code segment in the software and the logging in of the arm-prep procedure is what is claimed, not the simple act of arm-prep which is well known. In the present invention, such code segment and logging in is important in confirming in the record that the blood collection procedure was properly implemented.

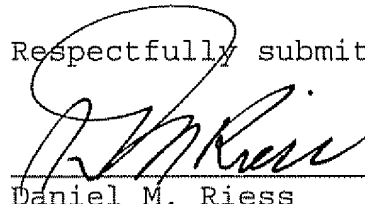
At the close of the interview it was agreed that if the independent claims 49, 98 and 143 were amended as they have been amended herein, the application should be in condition for allowance, unless more pertinent prior art than that currently of record is found on an updated search.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims remaining in the present application, claims 49-84, 86-91 and 93-143, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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